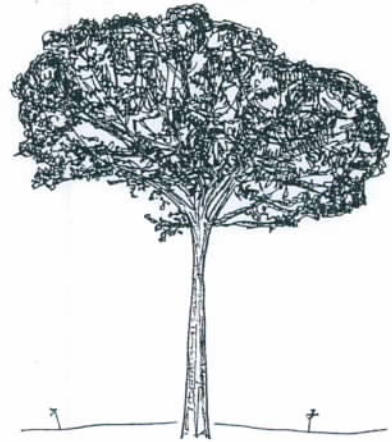


The Tree of Life

Review Key Words⁶

- pod** A pod is a shell or covering, often with seeds inside.
- qualities** Qualities are specific features or traits that make a thing what it is.
- repels** Repels means keeps away.
- stuffing** Stuffing means packing with something.



Writ- ediction

Read the Story⁷⁻⁹

6 The **majestic** kapok tree stands tall
 14 over other trees in the forest. In **Mayan**
 23 **myths**, this tree is known as the "tree of
 30 life." It has been an important **symbol**
 in Mayan **culture**.

33 The kapok tree has been important to
 40 other people too. The fruit of the kapok
 48 tree has many useful **qualities**. This
 54 fruit is a **pod** filled with **fluff**. The fluff
 63 is also called kapok. Kapok keeps its
 70 shape over time. It holds in heat and
 78 **muffles** sound. These qualities make it
 84 good for **stuffing** things. In the early
 91 1900s, kapok was often used to stuff

98 beds, pillows, and stuffed animals. At
 104 that time, even baseballs were filled
 110 with kapok!

112 Kapok has another useful quality. It
 118 floats! It is light and **repels** water.
 125 People found that it made good stuffing
 132 for **life jackets**. Until the end of the
 140 **Second World War**, most life jackets
 146 were stuffed with kapok. Kapok likely
 152 saved many sailors' lives. Maybe these
 158 sailors didn't know about Mayan myths.
 164 Yet for them, the kapok was also a tree
 173 of life!
 175

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

The Tree of Life

Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
 - a. Kapok trees have been important to different people for different reasons.
 - b. Kapok has been used to stuff many things.
 - c. Kapok trees saved many sailors' lives.
2. What was the kapok fruit used for in the early 1900s?
 - a. tying things
 - b. stuffing things
 - c. eating
3. What does the word **majestic** mean in this story?
 - a. large and important
 - b. sweet and tasty
 - c. old and trusted
4. Why was the kapok a tree of life for sailors?
 - a. It helped them fight the war.
 - b. It kept them from getting cold.
 - c. It kept them from sinking.
5. Why is kapok good for stuffing things?

6. Match each word with its definition.

1. symbol	a. ___ makes quieter
2. myths	b. ___ beliefs of a group of people
3. culture	c. ___ object standing for something
4. muffles	d. ___ stories to explain things

Parent Tips

Your student's fluency develops when she has many successful opportunities with reading. So it's important she practice reading aloud texts that are rather easy – that is, the texts should be at her independent reading level. If the text is more difficult, she must focus on word recognition and won't have a chance to develop fluency. The text should also be relatively short –around 200 words. These weekly reading passages are a perfect format for helping your child develop and maintain her fluent reading skills.

Number of Words: _____